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**FITZPATRICK ENDORSES
SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF**

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA) today endorsed the small business tax relief proposals contained in President Bush's proposed budget.

"Small businesses are the business engines of Bucks County. Making tax cuts permanent, killing the death tax, providing a refundable tax credit for employee Health Savings Accounts, all help small business, including small businesses in the 8th District ... and Washington can do better," said Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick continued, "I have told the House Budget Committee to add more targeted tax relief to small business owners. For the self-employed, I want to see a tax deduction for health insurance costs. Congress should also establish a standard home office deduction. We can help our high-tech companies by providing tax credits for research and experimentation."

"I am disappointed the President proposes to a 2.8% spending decrease for Small Business Administration (SBA). But, it is important to also remember the SBA is leading by example. The SBA is showing Congress how to do more with less. While I serve on the House Small Business Committee, the SBA will not be the cause of the growing deficits. The SBA continues to serve more small businesses than ever in its history," said Fitzpatrick.

As a member of the House Small Business Committee, Fitzpatrick intends to ensure small businesses have access to capital and while saving taxpayer money. "Eliminating Washington's subsidies for 7(a) business loans will save taxpayers approximately \$70-\$100 million. User fees are meeting 7(a) loan costs, and there remains a steady demand for 7(a) loans," said Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick concluded by stating, "I recognize our tough budgetary times. I, and many others on the Committee, believe some SBA programs deserve an inflationary increase after years of not receiving much, if any, increase at all. For example, Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers should be considered for inflation increases."

Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick is serving his first term as Representative of the 8th District of Pennsylvania, which includes Bucks County and portions of Montgomery County and Philadelphia.

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